

RI EL Advisory Council Minutes of the Meeting September 28, 2016

Attendance:

Julie Motta (Chair), Laurie Grupp, Richard Kucal (Vice Chairs), Elizabeth Alexander (Recording Secretary), Cathy Fox (Membership Secretary), Jillian Belanger (RIDE), Emily Klein (RIDE), Catarina Anselmo, Nancy Cloud, Evelyn Cosme-Jones, Elizabeth Lusi D'Abbraccio, Jennifer Efflandt, Judy Fried, Tanya Helm, Sarah Hesson, Kim Hewson, Ying Hui, Sharon Jochmann, Joe Lopes, Maria Mansella, April Marquis, Ronilee Mooney, Michael Northup, Erin Papa, Sara Reis, Victoria Rodriguez, Audrey Romanelli, Nittaya Saenbut, Dina Silvaggio, Sara Smith, Anke Steinway, Karen Stern, Jose Valerio, Jenn Walker, Reyna Zapata

Apologies:

Adriana Neira, Rebeca Filomeno, Maria Moret, Amanda Sox, Jodi Anthony

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M.

1. Welcome, Introductions Etc.

(a) Welcome

Julie Motta welcomed new members and thanked returning members.

(b) September Showcase

Kim Hewson shared about his summer experience in the Dominican Republic, and his work with Haitian immigrants.

(c) Review of Membership Chart/Member Roles

Cathy Fox reviewed the membership chart, and Laurie Grupp went over member roles. Our meetings are open to the public. We usually vote by consensus, but in the event of a formal vote, the primary member votes.

2. Old Business

(a) The minutes of the Spring meeting were approved. Ronilee Mooney motioned to pass them, and Jose Valerio seconded the motion. All were in favor.

(b) Summer Updates: Julie Motta read aloud letters were sent to RIDE:

- (i) in support of the Secondary Regulations
- (ii) in regard to the ESOL/Praxis test.

(The Praxis ESOL test cut score has been raised in RI. ETS put together a panel to discuss the score which was set by ETS as 155. Nancy Cloud shared some of

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the irregularities regarding this ETS panel. RI representatives were chosen from a charter school and a rural district that has no EL students. Laurie Grupp mentioned that in the past RIDE would contact the teacher training programs for suggestions and recommendations. Nancy Cloud stated that many fully qualified people may not be able to pass the PRAXIS (bilingual teachers are especially challenged). Many who didn't pass the test were taking it in a second language.

Julie Motta and Laurie Grupp attended an Elementary and Secondary Education meeting with the Commissioner. They gave testimony regarding the new PRAXIS cut score, and expressed their concerns, advocating to lower the score. The Commissioner worked to counter their concerns. In the end, it seemed that the meeting was a formality; the high cut score was approved.)

(iii) Committee completed a Guidance Document about using assessment data with ELs. Julie read this letter. RIDE will continue to look at the guidance document but did not feel it was ready to be released. Emily Klein will share a Power Point on EL assessment and lack of equity.

(iv) Budget was passed providing an additional \$2.5 million for EL Education in RI. It will be important for us to keep track, and report, the ways the money is spent.

(v) Seal of Biliteracy passed. Julie Motta thanked Evelyn Cosme-Jones and Erin Papa for their work in this regard. Erin reported that they are attempting to get RIDE to include this in the Secondary Regulations.

(vi) Proposal for Revision work on Exit Criteria. The concern was raised that ACCESS scores should not be the only consideration.

3. RIDE Updates

(a) Regulations Update / Timeline Jillian shared a Power Point which highlighted the proposed changes:

- Language has been updated throughout the document: Some of the major changes: ESL → ENL; ELL → EL

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- Cultural competence has been added for students and teachers
- Changes are being proposed to identify high and low incidence districts
- Responsibilities for implementation are part of core instruction and district planning, not a separate consideration
- The following program models are being proposed: Bilingual: Transitional bilingual or dual language; ENL: Collaborative ENL and General Education; Newcomer/SLIFE
- Schools are encouraged to review transcripts and conduct family interviews to ensure proper placement, and reviewers are encouraged to award credit for previous schooling when possible
- Time requirements for service by a certified EL teacher are being proposed
- Family Engagement: Rather than establishing a separate parent advisory council, EL families should be encouraged and trained to participate in existing structures

(b) Senate Commission Updates

(c) Additional Budget Approval-Rollout and Accountability: RIDE will be collecting data & anecdotes regarding how the funding is used by districts.

(d) Overall ACCESS results from 2016 administration: will review trends across the state & accommodation trends. Emily Klein said WIDA has not loaded the 2015-16 results yet to compare. She will follow-up to share those results when available. Nancy Cloud also asked if it is possible to drill down to study

(e) New WIDA Screener: Nancy Cloud suggested that RIDE follow-up with WIDA. Screener is moving to computer-based and reservations were expressed regarding using computer based assessments with students who have no technology experience

6. New Business

- a. Goals of the Council: Julie shared the handout with progress on each goal
- b. WIDA Standard Setting: Julie attended the work group in Wisconsin. The writing rubric and the speaking rubric are not used to score student work. The performance standards are used for scoring. The performance definitions

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provide more guidance. WIDA is predicting that there will be a decline in WIDA scores with these new cut scores.

- c. Commissioner's Committee on the Implementation of ESSA: provides input on the RI plan for rolling out ESSA; one suggestion is to highlight some of the positive things that are happening in low-performing schools.
- d. Bilingual/Dual Language Certification: Nancy Cloud shared that RIDE is asking monolingual teachers in a dual language program to get bilingual endorsement. This opens a "can of worms" for dual language programs. Technically, a monolingual teacher who was teaching with a dual language teacher could apply for a bilingual/dual language job with this certification. The thoughts reflected by many were that monolingual teachers working in the English portion of a dual language program would benefit from the ESL Certification, but should not be asked to get dual-language/bilingual certification.

7. Questions/Comments/Announcements/Good Things to Share:

(a) RITELL conference; Nancy Cloud shared the flyer for upcoming conference on October 29th

(b) RIFLA conference: Erin Papa reminded people about the conference in Cumberland on Saturday, Oct 1st.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Maria Mansella, and seconded by Jose Valerio, at 8:42 P.M.